[Appendix I Transcript of Complete field notes of the excavation of cave site #248]

Notes (press release?) March 6, 1954

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#16

1954

Box 69 folder 14

APPENDIX I. Transcript of complete field notes of the excavation of the cave site, Number 248 of the survey of Tamaulipas, under the direction of Dr. Richard S. MacNeish. The only change in the transcript has been the substitution of surnames for personal names where those occurred.

Saturday, March 6, 1954. Pratt, Guerra, and Kelley left Victoria about 11 A.M. Ate at LLera. Buying gasoline at Limon, discovered that gas line near carburetor was leaking. Finally arrived at Ocampo about 5:30 P.M. and met E. Martinez almost immediately. Divided the cargo, leaving Pratt's equipment in Ocampo. Then on to Refugio, arriving about 8:30 P.M. Pratt left shortly. [for Ocampo] . Guevara not there, and Montalvo had not been there.

Sunday, March 7, 1954. Left cargo ready for loading and Kelley, Guerra, and Martinez went on to camp. Met Montalvo on trail, going to Refugio for our stuff. Ate lunch at Montalvo's. Arrived in camp about 1½ hours before sunset. Bonifacio had left Policarpio in charge of camp. Four new men were there, whom Jesus Baez had brought. They had arrived about noon Saturday. Names were: Coronado; Gutierrez; Sirilo Bermudez; Pedro Valles. Coronado is an older man, the others all under 20. Took them down to [TMC] 247 and explained the nature of the work, the stratigraphy, and the necessity for caution in a 5-minute lecture. Then we moved the screens, shovels, etc. to [TMC] 248 and Kelley began excavating square N10E5. Surface was cleared and apparently undisturbed occupation layers appeared almost immediately. After a short time digging, went back to camp. Some difficulties because Baez, in accordance with instructions,

had sent 5 men Saturday and Montalvo and Gonzalez wanted to work, as well as Policarpio, more men than I [Kelley] wanted to handle or the budget would stand. Rios, a somewhat older man, arrived while we were in the cave. On arriving back in camp, found Baez there with a turkey that he had killed.

Monday, March 8. Decided to kepp: Guerra, Policarpio , Gonzalez, Montalvo, Coronado, Rios, and Bermudez. Offered half pay for Sunday as the men were there, ready to work but we weren't and paid off Gutierrez and Valles, the two youngest. Probably will pay off another later. Finished work on N10E5 in morning. Very little stratigraphy so near edge of cave and only 1 vegetable layer. Found 1 point in gravel layer. All gravel so far seen is a gray gravel, obviously colored by materials from above. Started Guerra on N5E5 and Policarpio on N10E10. Vegetable layer became 2 in N10E10. N5E5 completed except for part of gravel layer and about half of N10E10 completed. Slower because of more complex stratigraphy. Switched Coronado to N5E5 and Montalvo to N10E10. Some of men left in camp getting fire-wood in morning. Long noon break while I drew profiles. Found about 10 pieces of mat, a peculiar net, and some string as well as sherds and 5 points. (1 Catan and 1 Abasolo roundbase). Bonifacio arrived in the evening with a harmonica, willing to work or not in accord with circumstances. As others all wanted to work and were already engaged, I decided reluctantly to pay him off.

Tuesday, March 9. Paid off Bonifacio in morning. Finished N5E5 and Coronado began E5, finished by evening. N10E10 finished in afternoon and N10E15 begun by Rios. Nearly

finished by ~~evening.~~ quitting time.

A disc scraped from the gravel of N10E10 furnished an interesting complement to the point of N10E5. The presence of vegetable layers actually in the gravel of E5 made a very perplexing problem. Vegetable layers imply dry conditions. Gravel is usually thought to imply running water. How can these conditions be reconciled? Material from these brown, presumably partly burnt, vegetable layers gave a brown color to most of the gravel, but some below was the gray gravel (out of ink to my horror). There was no sign of vegetable material in the gray gravel where the point and disc scraper were found and they probably represent an older occupation. The fact that beans were found in at least the uppermost vegetable layer of the gravel furnishes an additional puzzle as they seemed very late in TMC 247. [This was subsequently found to be untrue- the rare beans had simply not been recognized.] Since [TMC] 248 is lower than [TMC] 247, gravel may have been deposited there when it could not be deposited in [TMC] 248 but even so it is hard to believe that the gravel layer in [TMC] 248 is as late as beans appeared in the sequence of [TMC] 247. The appearance and disappearance of thin burnt vegetable lenses within the single square E5 indicated that the stratigraphy may prove very complex.

Wednesday, March 10. The second point made on a flake appeared. Also one like a Tortugas triangular but with complete fluting [this turned out to be a flaw in manufacturing] and one very strange point . In the afternoon a third flake point appeared, of the same white flint as the second but of better workmanship. S5E5 was begun and finished. S10E5 was begun with

very complex stratigraphy. N10E15 was finished in the morning and work was begun on N10E20 and N5E15. A badly-crushed skull, not noted by Montalvo in digging, was found in very badcondition in N10E20 down in the first level above the gravel.

There seem to be decidedly more bones and snail shells in this cave than in [TMC] 247, including a considerable amount of fossil bone. In the evening, Leoncillo Guerra, Ignacio's son, arrived with a friend to see the work. He said reporters had come to Ocampo from Mante and Tampico to find out about the caves.

Decided to send Bermudez with $10.00 [Mex.] to get ink and paper on the 11th as there was not enough of either. Baez was unable to get either at his place and with one man over this seemed worthwhile. Possibly will fire one Friday.

Thursday, March 11. Bermudez returned with ink and note-books. Found a roll of graph paper for profiles which I had not previously been able to locate and will transfer all the small-scale profiles tonight. Leoncillo Guerra and his friend visited the cave this morning, a good time as I was removing the burial in N10E20. This was a disgusting burial to work with, as the disarticulated bones had apparently been thrown in every which way (possibly more than one person from the difference in size of some of the bones), they broke at the touch of the brush, and mostly not more than one or two were visible at a time--or rather, half visible, as they had assumed the gray color of the surrounding soil. All other work ceased, because I could not direct the very complex digging in S10E5 and get out the burial at the same time and I found that the dust from the more simple N5E15 made it literally impossible to see the burial. The discovery of a very large lance point

of beautiful white flint with the burial raised the morale of the men very high and, I must admit, my own opinion of the burial which I had been regarding as a decidedly unfortunate accident. I believe the burial is correctly assigned to the arbitrary L4 but the profile N15E20 to N10E20 shows by the cutting of a newly present white ash layer that there is a pit from L2 to the bottom in the S of the square. However since L2, L3, and L4 are essentially arbitrary divisions of one gray ash layer, a pit from one part of this into another was impossible for me to see. Squares N10E20 and N5E15 were completed late in the afternoon.

The general situation becomes more puzzling. I have not seen one primitive-looking corn-cob and not one cob certainly below the thin top vegetable layer. A couple of potsherds have been found in the gray layer immediately below but they may well have been intrusive. The large limestone 'knives' showed up in quantity with choppers in a brown level of varying character sitting on the gravel in squares S10E5, N10E20, and N5E15. Two more flake-points showed up and I have the impression, perhaps false, that all are above the chopper level and below the potsherd level. This makes a nice enough sequence but beans below the chopper level confuse things and not one squash seed had appeared so far to my knowledge except in the topmost vegetable layer with modern corn and pottery. A mat (over 3 under 3 changing 1 each time) projecting from the edge of S10 into S10E5 is almost certainly underlying a burial but like the string projecting from N15E10 I decided to leave it for the completion of my original plan of work. I don't remember seeing this type of weave before. With 8 squares completed there seems almost no connection with the

cave less than 100' away. Even the one burial is very different.

Decided to keep extra workman and put one man on cleaning out dirt so that the long profiles will remain clean, changing this man every day.

Friday, March 12. Began and finished E15 and N10E25 and finished S10E5 by far the richest and most complex square to date, in vegetable materials and excrement. General situation remains the same. The level immediately above the gravel is still producing large numbers of limestone 'knives' and 'choppers' and beans continued to appear in a similar level in S10E5. One large point appeared in the deepest part of this level, unfortunately with the base broken off, apparently in excavating. A piece of mat, one over one under, was found in S10E5 in the vegetable level above this, and a pipe was found in the topmost level. Points continued rare. One in gray ash from N10E25 was like an Abasolo round base but lightly fluted on one side. One corn cob appeared down in gray ash in E15 but may well be intrusive. One alleged pot sherd appeared in L3 or L4 of S10E5 but in the face of the unanimous opinion of the workmen I am still not fully convinced it is a sherd. [N.B. 13 Mar. found another of same type and workmen decided it was a stalagmitic formation. I agree.] .

Men quit somewhat early as I had the profiles to draw before they could continue digging. Montalvo moved dirt today and went for water in afternoon as Baez had work to do before coming back to camp after dusk. Montalvo and Gonzalez went home for the night with promises to return early in the morning.

Saturday, March 13. One Abasolo round base, somewhat narrower than usual and one Catan round base, plus 3 broken points and two

unfamiliar ones (as I remember) were all the points found. A presumable burial pit showed up on the E edge of S15E5 with a large one-under one-over mat and something between a net and a mat with it. Left a small shelf projecting in square with thse things on it. In same level was what seemed to be another wooden 'harpoon', unfortunately onlytwo nothces on the short end piece found. [This was really not very like the 'harpoon' of TMC 247.] I don't really think rats would make such notches and the end was certainly pointed by men. This level is directly on the gravel in the vegetable layer below the vegetable layer which has a presumed buril in S10 and corresponds to the level which had the other piece of mat with one-over one-under weave, although this mat uses much larger materials. A chopper and the tooth of some very large member of the deer family were found in the dark brown gravel of N5E25 at a possibly corresponding layer or possibly somewhat earlier. Many of the bones which we are finding in large numbers may well have been cut and worked by men. As all are automatically separated by the workmen, I have not paid too much attention to them but certainly a considerable number are worked. Carpio found in surface fill a polished dark brown engraved sherd, beautifully even lines filled with red paint--typical period IV, the only thing so far to suggest a pre-Los Angeles occupation by pottery peoples in this cave. A pine cone almost with the mat above I at first thought to be a corn cob, the only thing resembling a primitive cob that I have seen. Situation remains essentially the same although choppers have been showing up in higher levels sometimes in considerable numbers. Some are probably not genuine artifacts but it becomes more and more difficult to draw a satisfactory line. Carpio found

a shell ornament [o o] pierced and well-cut in the highest non-pottery level. The presence of a clay bed, very hard, under the gravel is geologically interesting. First appeared in S15E5.

Finished S5E15 and began S10E15. Rios now working well with very little supervision. Bermudez pleased me by not breaking the mat in S15E5 and by calling me immediately. The men are beginning to get good. Nearly completed S15E5 and N5E25. Big rocks are as horribly omnipresent as in TMC 247. Should finish the map and draw the still exposed profiles but 10-10½ hours work a day is enough for me and in any case any extra time I have is not in daylight.

Sunday, March 14. A gray day, sun not visible and things almost impossible to see in cave. One good Abasolo point today and one like an Abasolo point but made on a flake, although much more worked on the care side than those found before. Only a couple of others and unfamiliar. Still no corn except in the topmost layer, but squash finally showed up in E25 in layer 2b along with a nearly complete net bag. This is still quite late in this cave.

Finished S15E5, N5E25, and S10E15. Slowing down some because more vegetable layers are showing up together with several small pits. Also the men have farther to go with the shovels as it seems well to have the screens, at least, in the light.

Paid Jesus Baez $200. (Mex.) so he could pay off a debt.

Finally got around to changing my hammock. Last night some strings broke and trying to readjust them made things so bad I slept on the ground with the men. Now in Peter Grant's old spot.

Monday, March 15. Decided to dig at least 1 or 2 squares in W

part of cave partly because it was another gray day and the light is much better there, partly because I thought possibly agricultural people had lived in that part of the cave where light and altitude are better. Cleaned out treasure hunters' pit which had cut S5W25, S5W30, and small parts of S10W25, and S10W30. Mixed down to gravel which was also cleared out in S5W25 and S5W30. Then began S5W30 by levels. Finished S15E15 and E25. The chopper complex level on the gravel in E25 had a bone 'harpoon' piece .

I now doubt this--certainly not like the 'harpoon' of TMC 247. More unfamiliar points appeared but still not one serrated point.

The W part of cave may prove more profitable for corn problem as pit fill contained several of the smaller type ears of corn. They later proved to be within the range of variation of the larger type . Accompanying chart shows first tentative correlation of sequences of two caves.

Men composed a corrida on our work here, tonight. Interesting to watch a ballad in process of formation, everybody contributing rhymes, arguing about dates, and generally trying to get both accuracy and rhythm.

Tuesday, March 16. Another mat and bed of leaves appeared projecting into S20E5 from S20E10. Stratigraphic position not yet clear. Finished S5W25 and S5W30 in morning with little profit except a point from very top of gray gravel in S5W30. S5E25 became very complex and very unprofitable, and S20E15 was at least temporarily abandoned it became so unprofitable. Visitors galore. An otherwise not-named Pancho arrived in the A.M., Bonifacio late in the P.M. and Jesus Baez with a friend slightly later.

Squash seeds appeared in the vegetable layer immediately

above the gravel in S of S20E5 for the first time. Although this level is here very near the surface with another vegetable layer sitting almost on top of it and with large rocks from the gravel projecting through it, I think the association is valid. More strange points.

Wednesday, St. Pat's. Finished S10W25. Sent Montalvo to get horses and put Coronado and Carpio on cleaning out dirt from completed squares. Mat from S10E20 with further cleaning seemed to be in yellow layer above chopper complex. Accompanying chart shows apparent correlation of key squares. Quit early and carried the bags up to camp. About that time MacNeish arrived and shortly after a friend of Epigmenio Martinez'. Paid men in evening.

(out to Victoria)

Saturday, March 20. Kelley, Guerra and Martinez left Victoria about 5:30 P.M., eating supper at Kiko's and stopping for gas at Limon. Arrived at Ocampo about 11:00 PM. Kelley stayed at Casa Turista leaving jeep at Victor Guerra's.

Sunday, March 21. Bugles began blowing at 5:00 A.M. Up at 6:30. Spent some time searching for lantern gasoline but could not find any, so bought candles. Ate some <u>pan dulce</u> and coffee with Guerra and Martinez, got gasoline, and took off for Refugio about 8:30 A.M. Stopped at El Tigre for piloncillo. Arrived at Refugio, but most of family absent. Left jeep and cargo there and walked on. Arrived at Juan Montalvo's in the afternoon. He had had company and so hadn't bothered to get the animals and go to Refugio, although he was out, allegedly looking for them when

we arrived. Juan Gonzalez asked for the week off so he could build a house. Got into camp in late afternoon but Pancho was down getting water, so no one was there. In spite of our having emphasized that Martinez and Guerra had left even their blankets at Refugio, Montalvo did not arrive with cargo. I spent about an hour in cave drawing profiles. Coronado arrived in evening with boys looking for work.

Monday, March 22, 1954. Sent Coronado, who had two horses with him, to Montalvo's to check whether he had actually left for Refugio, and, if not, to go himself. Went down to finish drawing profiles if possible, leaving Guerra in camp to bring the boys down if and when they arrived. He arrived about an hour later with Rios, having sent Carpio and Bermudez for water, certainly necessary as Baez had not then arrived. In afternoon, Coronado was back and said Montalvo had sent Bonifacio for the stuff. Took the five men down to cave for afternoon and began work on N5E10 and N5E20. Decided to abg two adjacent squares at a time to conserve on bags, and defined following levels to be used for all squares subsequently dug:

L 1--Vegetable and thin surface ash. Los Angeles occupation. Up to three sub-divisions, 1a, 1b, and 1c.

L 2--Gray ash. Occasionally somewhat browner and with slightly more vegetable material. Always darked than gray ash of L 1. The browner gray ash, which in some places seems to underlie the rest, when distinguishable, was called 2a.

L 3--A vegetable layer, without corn but containing squash and beans, usually unburnt and, where present, fairly close to surface.

L 4--A light gray ash layer, almost white in places.

L 5--A vegetable layer, usually burnt and thin.
L 6--A yellow layer, occasionally containing vegetable materials, and very rarely becoming an ash layer of variegated colors.
L 7--A vegetable layer, usually brown, apparently from some cause other than burning. Levels 5,6,7 may contain several other vegetable layers in various squares and where these are distinguishable they are indicated as 5a, 5b, etc. Over most of area so far dug, no distinction is practical. Contain beans, possibly squash, and a primitive stone chopper complex.
L 8--Gravel. A brown gravel, apparently stained by vegetable materials, often overlies the gray gravel which is the usual color, which in turn overlies the yellow gravel and a red clay.

A small bow was found, still strung, in L 1b of N5E10.

There is less work left than I had thought, and so I'm putting less pressure on. Decided to wash and mark stone artifacts as they appeared, as they crush the bone nd shell material and damage the vegetable materials when put in the same bag. Also, in this way, two bags will suffice for all stone work. No points were found.

Bonifacio arrived with cargo in evening just as I was taking off my things to go to bed, to the considerable relief of Guerra and Martinez who were not happy at the prospect of another night without blankets. Pancho had arrived late in afternoon and said Montalvo wanted him (Pancho) to work in his (Montalvo's) place for this week, so now have a six-man crew.

Coronado's sons stayed over night. Baez arrived with a turkey in the afternoon in time to eat some for supper.

Tuesday, March 23. Finished squares N5E20, N5E10, and S10W30.

I put Carpio on screen and Pancho digging there, with little expectation of finding much, simply because it seemed the place where they'd be least in the way. To my considerable surprise, far down in the gravel they found the broken point of a point, a broken scraper, and an unretouched piece of what might have been a large blade or might have been nothing, but looked out of place in the gravel. There had been no fall of material from above in this part of the square, and Pancho had been going down carefully, starting above and then continuing below. Although none of us saw the artifacts in place, there seems no valid reason to doubt the association except the a priori one of impossibility, which does not seem to apply. Another broken point found while cleaning out the gravel in the S10W25-S10W30 boundary area, from the adhering dirt, may well have come from the topmost part of the gravel, but here suspicion of mixing must be strong. Part of what may have been a basket (a very small piece) and part of a "netted mat" appeared in N5E20 in what I think was L7, together.

Wednesday, March 24. Finsihed the small amount which remained to do on squares S20E15 and S5E25 as well as finishing E10 and E20. The men seem to be getting more free time and I am quitting somehwat earlier myself (in terms of remaining daylight) myself, but this is not too bad a work record. Only important discovery was a worked bone from the gravel in square S5E10, scooped out from under a rock surrounded by gravel. Again, no reason to suspect mixing. Left with the points. Had red and blue colors on it, possibly chemicals from the soil, possibly painting which had survived by some near miracle. Also found a point in E20 which

probably belongs to the earliest post gravel occupation level, from a level which may correspond to L6 or L7a (below top vegetable layer of L7). Simpled tanged point, somewhat lopsided. Bags seem to be holding out well so far. An occasional corn cob has very large bracts, especially in the material from the W25-W35 squares, but none (cobs) are very small.

Had pita renewed on ladder.

~~March 26~~ Thursday, March 25. Finished S5E10, S5E20, and S10E10, except for a small section of gravel supporting a large rock. Carpio outdid himself today, finding no less than 9 points, one coming from the gravel apparently. I am not quite as well satisfied with this point as with the last, as it seemed to have some soil adhering to it, but the soil did not seem to be like any of the layers above,and I guess it is probably all right, although it is a very small nearly diamond-shaped point. In S15W25, a basket in very poor shape appeared lying on a bed of vegetable matter. Decided to leave it in situ, at least until I begin to get low on work, so that if Scotty arrives he can see it. I do not seem to keep up with the men nearly as well as I should, yet squares keep getting finished. ~~Tack~~ Track of a small snake in cave this morning. What bothered me was that it seemed to have left from my washing pan with no previous trail, although I find it difficult to believe it was really there all day yesterday. Baez brought some more turkey which we had for supper. Coronado's son is still around, but I hardly like to tell him to go home.

Friday, March 26. Decided to finally finish the gravel, all that was left of S20E5, and found to my astonishment that layers extend

on under great rock I had assumed was bed rock. S25E5 may prove worth digging. Also finished S15W30, and most of E30 except a small section where the stratigraphy may be seen, and there was clear danger of mixing. Began work on N15E10, but found a mat at bottom of a chracoal and gravel-filled pit, with a wrapped-up bone and a wrapped-up corn cob, apparently. Condition of mat very poor. Some of cobs from this square are different enough so I think they may be a different race, although still certainly fairly late. I am perplexed as to what to do about work. The men have gotten me on the run. There is not much more that can be taken out, and I have lots of profile drawing still to do. As it is, I am keeping about half a profile ahead, or even holding things up. There is only about two days useful and probably profitable work left, all of which wil mean drawing lots of profiles, aside from the burials. However, with 4 days left to work, it doesn't really seem profitable to begin in the cave by the spring, particularly as at least half of one of those days would be occupied setting up stakes etc. and the men wouldn't be working at all. However, this is a decision I can leave until about Sunday night. If the men would take Sunday off, I'd be delighted. Bonifacio sent part of a turkey he had shot, which we had for supper, and Baez has killed a deer, part of which we'll get for Sunday.

Saturday, March 27. Tonight the <u>norte</u> which has been around for two days is leaving. I suppose it will be very hot tomorrow. It has been comfortably warm, even with visibility cut to about 1 mile, and it was uptto about 5 miles tonight. Finished squares

S10E20, N15E20, N20E20, and N5 today, with people waiting for me every time I turned around and still lots of profiles to draw. The stratigraphy in S5 appears quite complex, but things are becoming clearer. Down to L5, here a thick vegetable layer, things are quite clear, and L4 in this square does not seem to contain much vegetable materials, although there is a thin vegetable layer within it, which is three layers in 0-0 and at least 2 layers in S10. Below L5 appears a gray ash layer; this seems to be continuous with the yellow layer, L6, in S10, but is clearly continuous with a thin gray ash in 0-0 which overlies a thin burnt vegetable layer, which lies on yellow gravel, the yellow looking like L6, and having still another thin burnt vegetable layer below it. In L5 a bed of palm leaves showed up, with two "knives" and a Tortugas triangular point. If Tortugas triangular is contemporary with the introduction of corn, as the other cave seemed to indicate, it is not surprising that no corn cobs have been found, as L5 is almost everywhere else in the cave a very thin unimportant layer. Still, this does not explain their absence in L3, which is a thick layer.

Coronado's son is taking over Baez' jobs for two days.

Sunday, March 28th. The big excitement in camp today was that Epigmenio Martinez shot a deer--with a .22, killed with one shot, from the camp.

Finished S15E20 and S10E25, one before noon. One point, one shell ornament, and one giant deer tooth, the latter from the very top of the gravel, were practically the sole result. Another point from the gravel would justify all the work there,

but it is mostly to give the men something to do. If I went to the spring, setting up the stakes and starting the first square would be a full day's work--for me and about two others--but I have plenty of work here for two days for myself and two others. The difficulty is that it is not practical to divide it among six men. Hoping to find a nearer cave along the cliff, so that I could set the men to clearing trail, building ladders, or any of the many necessary things, Rios and I went along from the cave towards the east. Saw several small rock-floored caves. The one which I had seen one day from near 249 turned out to be a large rock-shelter type cave, with very little dirt on the floor. It looked a near ideal primitive living place, but one sherd, a couple of limestone "knives" (possibly) and a couple of corn cobs were the only signs of habitation. A short distance beyond it was a very fine rock shelter whose advantages had obviously been appreciated by various primitive groups. Found many sherds and two flint artifacts. Unfortunately, it also was formed with the rock floor visible towards the canyon, and not room for more than a few inches of earth deposit over most of its length. Farther on, was a cave which was apparently used as a habitation site by jabalis but showed no clear evidence of human habitation (exceping a couple of more doubtful specimens of the limestone "knives"). Some vegetable materials were visible, but most of the cave floor seemed quite damp for some reason and, again, bedrock was visible in many places, although there may have been enough depth of deposit in some places for a certain amount of stratigraphy. Still farther along was a cave with a high, rocky entrance, divided into three sections inside, the first one where we saw bats. One large sherd

was outside. Large pebbles were over much of the floor, but no visible artifacts, and looked most unpromising. In short, at least three more sites, but none suitable for further work. Returned to 248, had the men do some cleaning up, decided what squares to dig tomorrow, and quit early. I remind myself that a full day's holiday with pay for all the men is about equivalent to a half day holiday for myself in money spent. S15 is going slowly but fairly productively, the vegetable layers of L3, L5, andL7 unfortunately merging towards the back. I hope that further back (here west) they will separate again.

Monday, March 29, 1954. Finished S10E30, N5E30, N10, and S5 today. In S5 a mat and a polished stone sitting on top of it appeared in L3, and this section of L3 was left as well as the section in L5 with the bed of palms etc. The rest was finished. In N5E30, I was surprised to discover that a grayish white ash was apprently under L6 in part of the square, and came out under the L2 pit apparently. If actually continuous, as it seemed, then a number of times I have probably bagged with L2 objects which actually belonged to earlier than L6. An obsidian point showed up in this square in top of gravel but could easily have been intrusive from the L2c/6. Bonifacio showed up with one horse, and I sent him and Coronado, the latter with his two mules, to meet MacNeish. Juan Gonzalez also showed up, but I told him there'd be no work until MacNeish arrived. Quit very early, myself as well as men. Have enough work for a half-day or so tomorrow, for the men, and a full day for myself, or nearly.

Pratt arrived in the evening.

Saturday, April 10, 1954.

MacNeish arrived with Bob Lubar and Juan Guzman (Gutmann) on Tuesday, 30 March 1954, and I've written no notes since. Wednesday, March 31, we took out all the mats and baskets visible in various profiles except the one in S20E10. None accompanied burials, but Paul, in cleaning out the baskets in the western part of the cave, exposed a child's burial in mats in the profile, and this was taken out. In the evening, this was opened and a remarkably preserved child found. In the evening, the boys sang me a local version of "Happy Birthday" and D. Ignacio Guerra produced a bottle to celebrate. On my birthday, Thur. April 1, MacNeish and the newsmen left very early in the morning, D. Ignacio Guerra and Epi Martinez left somewhat later, and finally Paul Pratt and I, after seeing about the cargo. Were supposed to pick up Jesus Baez in Ocampo, but arrived about 5:30 and could not locate him, so Pratt, Martinez, Guerra and I went on to Victoria. Got the jeep too close to the side of the Guadalejos bridge and ripped off a tire. Arrived about 1 A.M. in Victoria and opened my birthday books. Friday, Ap. 2, left about 6 P.M. for Brownsville in red jeep--Scotty, June, Paul, Epi and I. Arrived about 6 A.M. after difficulties with the muffler, leaving Paul with his own difficulties at the Customs. Transferred ownership of jeep and bought some books and supplies. Said "goodbye" to Paul Sat. P.M. about 3:00. Sunday back to Victoria, taking it easy. Monday, April 5, had difficulties with the gray jeep and did not manage to leave Victoria until about 3 in the afternoon. Got to Ocampo too late to get a room at Jorge's and stayed at the other place. Tues. Ap. 6 went on to Refugio and to camp, arriving late. Boys had all been there, ready to work.

Wed. and Thur. finished up the squares in 248 while MacNeish finished up 247, he finding 3 more mummies, in bad condition, and 3 atlatl foreshafts with Tortugas triangular points. Friday, 9 April, I finished most of profile-drawing and bagging in TMC 248, leaving several diggable squares and parts of squares, but having finished the most important ones. MacNeish took all the men and went up to the ruins in the A.M., then down to TMC 274 in the P.M. and began digging. Friday night it rained, not too hard, but lots of lightning and thunder, followed by strong winds. An uncomfortable night. Bonifacio and Juan Montalvo arrived with the rest of the cargo from Refugio and we had tomatoes again. Sat. April 10, MacNeish left in A.M. to do some survey work, taking Baez and Albino Rios. Young Coronado went along to take care of tortillas. Don t know what happened to Juan Montalvo. Working in cave I had Ignacio Guerra and Bonifacio , Coronado and Gonzalez, Albino Rios' brother and Carpio, and Mariano throwing out dirt. Pancho acted as cook, and stayed below all morning. In P.M. he was in cave, and so was young Coronado. About 4 feet down hit gravel, and have removed about 2 feet of gravel in some of squares without so far hitting bottom in any square. No squares completed. Does not seem too rich, although definitely more stone artifacts than in 248. Lots of Tortugas triangulars, and one of very thick Abasolo round base, like MacNeish's in southern partof zone. Palmillas-type molcajete showed up about 2½ feet down.

Cave 248 [as of 15 March '54] Tamaulipas, Mexico

1. large corn
crude monochrome pottery

Cave 247

V large corn
crude monochrome pottery

IV beans, small corn, serrated points
polished monochrome pottery

III early pottery [primitive corn, no beans]

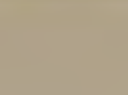
II primitive corn, squash

2. Beans, squash, net bag, points made on flakes [no corn, no pottery] ← probable burial

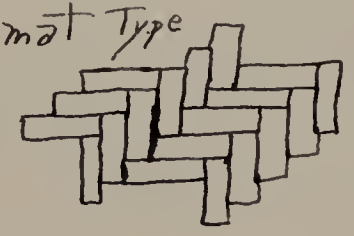
probable burial ?

3. Disarticulated burial
tanged ceremonial point
antler flint knappers

probable burial 4. Beans, mat (simple 1 over 1 under)



mat Type



I
8. wooden harpoon
9. squash (no beans) — choppers rare
10.

[no squash] bone and wood "harpoons"
choppers common

One point in gravel (gray)

One point in gravel (yellow)

[N.B. Reinterpreted with some differences later Nov. 54]

Tamaulipas survey, March 1959
Cave site - 248

Sq. 510	Sq. 515 E10	5 20 E5	E25
vegetable	gray ash and various vegetable layers	gray ash and vegetable	gray ash and vegetable
gray ash	vegetable	vegetable	vegetable (2b)
Thick vegetable			light gray ash
→ burial [actually only a mat — later]		? burial	burnt vegetable
light gray ash		yellow with vegetable	yellow
Thin brown-black burnt vegetable	yellow	brown vegetable	brown vegetable
yellow	brown vegetable	gravel	bed rock
brown vegetable	→ burial [actually only a mat — later]		
gravel	gravel		

March 6, 1954.

Excavation of a cave containing thousands of amazingly well preserved archaeological materials has just been completed by the Third Tamaulipas Archaeological Expedition, under the leadership of Dr. Richard S. MacNeish, of the National Museum of Canada, in the Canyon Infiernillo near Ocampo, Tamaulipas, Mexico.

Among the more spectacular finds were six ~~mummies~~ cadavers ranging from 1000 to 3000 years old. One of the mummies, along with net bags, baskets and woven water bottles, was bundled up with rope inside a covering of five or six mats; while another, also inside a covering of mats with baskets, was inside a net packboard with a tump-line (head band for carrying). Still another flexed skeleton under mats, which had had its head removed before burial, had an arrow shaft within its ribs. The other mummies had a variety of baskets, nets, mats, rope, clothing and tools with them, and it is expected that more implements placed with the dead will be found when the mummy wrappings are removed to be studied.

However, of perhaps more historical importance than the mummies was the finding of 17 layers, one on top of another inside the cave. 10 of these stratified layers contained preserved vegetable materials and over 100,000 specimens were uncovered. Preliminary study indicates a sequence of at least 5 distinct periods, perhaps beginning more than 5000 years ago. These five cultures show a wide range of artifacts and reveal an interesting economic development. The earliest, perhaps 4000 to 6000 years old, with wood harpoons, mats and stone tools, yielded only wild food plants, while squash seeds and rinds occur near the end of this period. The second period sees the introduction of corn and new kinds of spear points and baskets, but the people seem to have eaten mainly wild plant materials. The third period sees the introduction of pottery, cotton cloth and intensive corn agriculture. The fourth period has new pottery types; intensive bean, squash and corn agriculture, cane cigarettes (tobacco)?, the bow and arrow and a wide range of decorated baskets and mats. The final period seems to be somewhat a degeneration in weaving and stone tool making; even though the people continued to be corn, bean, squash, tobacco and chili agriculturists.

The Third Tamaulipas Archaeological Expedition; sponsored by the Botanical Museum of Harvard University under the direction of Dr. P. C. Mangelsdorf, world-famous corn specialist; the American Philosophical Society and the American Academy of Arts and Science is attempting to solve the problem of the origin of corn and civilization in the New World. This part of Mexico was chosen for study, as previous digging had revealed primitive corn types, including one possible cob of wild corn that have been dated by Carbon 14 studies of atomic physicists as being 4,445 years old. Dr. MacNeish does <u>not</u> believe this excavation of the cave near Ocampo solves the problem of the origin of agriculture in the

New World, but rather that it adds new data toward the solution of that problem, and he hopesthat further excavation he is now directing will add even more information.

[Appendix I - Transcript of Complete field notes of the excavation of cave site #248]

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#16

Notes (press release?) March 6, 1958